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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

142,

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

PERCENDUM TO: Director, Psychological Strategy Board

SUSJECT:

Flying Saucers

- 1. I am today transmitting to the Mational Security Commond a proposal (TMP A) in which it is concluded that the problems connected with unidentified flying objects appear to have implications for psychological warfare as well as for intelligence and operations.
- 2. The background for this view is presented in some detail in TAE 3.
- 3. I suggest that we discuss at an early board meeting the possible offensive or defensive utilization of these phenomena for psychological warfare purposes.

Enclosure

Walter B. Smith Director

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Approved for Release

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Sachreme Lines PRODUETE It is the purpose of this study to determine what concern to CIA, 12 are present any, is recident in the problem of "midentified flying objects," and to recommend, solve the inthone if such interest is found, steps that should be taken to improve Cin's intelligence position on a posts soluted to mitional executity.



PACTS BEARING OF THE PROPERT :

1. Since 1947, there have been about 1800 official reports of sightings plus an emprasure volume of letters, phone calls and press reports. During this July alone, official reports totaled 250. Of the 1800, Air Force courses 20% as manufactual and of those received since the first of this year, 28% manufactual.

2. The administrative unit now handling the Air Force inquiry on these phenomena is a small section headed by an Air Force Reserve Captain, E. J. Ruppelt, assisted by two lieutenants and two secretaries at Air Sechnical Intelligence Center, Wright Field. It is from this small group that the controling collections directive to the entire Air Force originated and it is to this small group that the flood of reports on flying samers comes for collection and analysis.

% 5. Resource and amplyois at this time is limited almost emplusively to the



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ন্ত ব্যক্তিক প্ৰথম ক্ষেত্ৰৰ প্ৰথম হ'ব নুন্দ বৈশিল কল্প কৰে। তাৰে বুলাই নামুক্তিৰ সংগ্ৰিক কৰে নামুক্তি প্ৰথম কলে কৰে।

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Copled From Youly Megible Collins J coming into a field already charged with partocanchip, are in which objectivity had been overridden by numerous amentional uniters, and one in which there are pressures for extravagent explanations as well as for oversimplification. They compulted with a representative of hir Force Special Projects groups discussed the problem with those in charge of the Air Force Project at Wright field; reviewed a considerable volume of intelligence reports; checked the Soviet press and broadcast indices; and conferred with three of our consultants at MIR, all leaders in their sciential fields.

The present small posle inquiry at ATIC, which thus far has been able only to use the care history approach, ammining each incident carofully to determine the put it can be explained or whether it must be put into the "unexplained" the sensitored a perfectly valid procedure but one that offered but the considered a perfectly valid procedure but one that offered but when a perfectly valid procedure but one that offered but when it generally be found on the cargins or just the perfect of the present knowledge in the fields of atmospherics, thing into account the possibility that is a feature to consider. A systematic

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problem of concern to operations as well as to intolligence.

- 2. Operational problems are of primary importance and should be attacked at once. They include:
- a. Taking immediate steps to improve identification of "phantoms" so that in the event of an attack, instant and positive identification of enemy rockets or plans could be made.
- b. Determination of what if any utilization should be made of these phenomena by US psychological various planners and what, if any, defenses should be planned in anticipation of Soviet attempts to utilize them.
 - S. Intelligence problems incl.
- a. Encyledge of the exact miture of these phenomena ospecially as remarks:
 - (1) Thether any are ousceptible to control, and can be thus utilized for either military or psychological offense or defense.
 - (2) Thether any are predictable and can thus be taken advantage of in military or psychological operations.
 - b. The present level of Russian knowledge regarding these phenomena.
- to the detriment of US security interests.
 - 2. The reasons for silence in the Soviet Press regarding "flying suncers".
- 4. Intelligence responsibilities in this field as regards both collection .



and is of such importance as to morit cognisance and action by the National Security Countil.

6. Additional work, differing in character and combasis from that presently under any will be required to meet the specific meets in this field of both operations and intelligence.

FROM DYPATIONS.

One of the two Sensible courses of action set forethe below is proposed; one requires MSC action, and the other requires action by Secretary of Defenses

- 1. MSC cotions under this course, it is recommended:
- a. That the DCI present to the DSC a draft MSC directive (TAS A) which prescribes that a contrally administered research program under DDS be established, in accordance with Sec. 214 (a), Estional Security Act of 1947, this program having for its research objectives requirements to be specified by the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Contral Intelligence, and Director of sublectual Strategy Board.

function is providing coordinated intelligence requirements and

the LCI suggest to Secretary of Defence along lines of the Class coordinated recourse program would be wallable to Cit, and the activity is unisolated by Colonie, the coordinated intelligence



TSC

SUBJECT: Unicontified flying objects.

- I. The Entional Security Council has recognized as a national momenty problem our present limited capabilities in rading prompt positive visual or rechanical identification of flying objects. The problem is recognized also as one which bears directly upon both offensive and defensive capabilities of the armed forces; as one of concern to operations as well as to intelligence; and as one having possible implications for psychological warfare.
- 2. As the nature of the problem is such that a centrally administered inquiry rather than a divided effort offers the best produce of progress, the Director, Research and Development Jouri is charged with the responsibility of administering in this field a progress of research which meets the specifications of Secretary of Defence and as regards operational requirements; of the Director of Central Intelligence, as regards the intelligence requirements and of Director,

Final DCI

TO s Socretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Intolligence interest in a study of unidertified flying objects.

1. Pacoutly CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence made an inquiry into the possible intelligence implications of this subject. We concluded that while the operational problem of improvement in identification of "phantoms" was of first priority because of the need to make instant and positive identification of energy receives or planes, the solution of intelligence problems are of sufficient importance to justify vigorous support by this Agency of an organized attack on the problem.

- 2. In our inquiry three of our men consulted with a representative of hir force Symmal Projects groups discussed the problem with those in charge of the hir Force Project at Wright field; reviewed a considerable volume of intelligence reports; checked the Soviet press and broadcast indices; and conferred with three of our consultants at MT, all leaders in their scientific fields.
 - the present small scale inquiry at ATIC, which thus for has been able to me the seaso history approach, examining each incident enrefully to me to explain to whether it must be just into the measurement a perfectly walld procedure but one that

were the ittile premise in opening up explanations regarding the nature of those

the authority at HII told us, it would probably be found on the

restricted the frontwers of our present imposedge in the fields

the possibility that nuclear waste products right also be a factor to consider.

A systematic attack on the assyst unexplained cases would contemplate a contrally coordinator program involving projects on a number of fronts and involving a variety of techniques not now used.

4. As the strictly US military operations problem of improved identification at home and abroad is closely tied to a number of intelligence quantions, it would be advantagens to CIA, as noll as to the interests of the intelligence components of Department of Defense, if intelligence research requirements could be included in any organized inquiry into the subject.

5. It this time we know so little of the exact nature of these phenomena that additional restarch would be necessary before it could be said whether any are succeptibel to southol and can thus bentilized for either military or psychological offices or defense, or whether any are predictable, and can thus be taken advantage of in military or psychological operations.

6. It may be found that an appropriate center for such research would be in a group such as Project Lincoln which is now working for Department of Defense or problems of air defense.

To let this time we are unable to find any basis in our information for

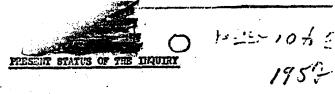
letter intentions or capabilities to utilize these phenomena

the ear detriment. The Soviet Pross has been silent on the subject — which is

i. limit proventive — and we are not yet able to appraise the present level

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to It would be appreciated if this agency could participate in any plans that there inquiry into this subject.



Ir. Strong has discussed with you some of the general features of this I am Jan 1911 to describe briefly how the Air Force has organized its study of reports on unidentified flying objects and outline its methods.

The administrative unit now handling the Air Force inquiry on these phenomena is the unidentified Flying Objects

[ATIC]

Section of the Aircraft Propulsion Branch of the [TAD]

Technical Analysis Division of Air Technical [AZPBE]

Intelligence Center, Wright Field.

This small spottom is headed by an Air Force Reserve Captain, E. J. Ruppelt, at Air Technical Intelligence Contential assisted by two lieutements and two secretaries. It is from this small group that the controling collection directive to the entire Air Force originated

[hyper Secretaries]

and it is to this small group that the flood of reports on unidentified flying

abjusts cares for collection and analysis.







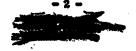
this central effort at ATIC is raintained on a minimal basis while there is concurrently ordered a world-wide reporting system and an interception program which may expend hundreds of man hours and thousands of dollars.

The methods used by Air Porce are now in the process of change but the conclusions and explanations given to the public are based on the process I am going to describe.

Research and analysis at this time is limited almost exclusively to the case history method. Reports, which are limited in their coverage to ten broad elements of information, are received from the field, mainly through the Air-intelligence reporting system, though also to a limited extent from the other services and from the Department of State.

These reports come to the Unidentified Consets Section where each one and is examined separately to determine whether it is explainable as "misinterprote tions of a known object", or whether it must be classed as "unexplained." and subject to further investigation.

In this sorting process, the reports are first examined in the light of established and readily available fact such as known belloom tracks or mircraft flights. The report may then be referred to an Air Force Base or to the Office





of Special Investigation for direct interrogation of the reporter. Also, in some cases the reports are referred to technical or scientific specialists for interpretation. It should be borne in sind that this is all on an individual case basis.

There has been no systematic or extensive use of other standard methods of processing data. It is true that there have been a few attempts to examine some of the broader questions that have been raised by those reports. ATIC has, for example, laboriously gone through the assumulation of "unexplained" US report one by one, to plot then on a map. These plots show a high invidence of reported cases near atomic installations and Strategic Air Command beses but this might be expected because of the greater number of alark observers in such places. Actually, a number of accepted research techniques that should be used in any effort to gain a sound understanding of those phenomena, have not been employed.

There is, of comes, some doubt regarding the extent and kind of effort required for the future. The Air Porce has not yet found any great cause for concern. Captain Buggel: remarked that, as the problem sooms to be of more concern to operations than to intelligence it might appropriately be noved out of intelligence to some operational command. (Within the last two weeks, he



has tried, unsuccessfully, to haid the buby to Air Defense Commid.)

There has a manufacture of street of the essential processes that might be used if Air Force considered

the inquiry worth a full blom effort, no could list the following:

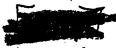
It mount charles in A to the The Tibe established in detail in rolation to the

quasticuraire. The quastions asked in the present collection directive are admitted to be imaloguate even for the limited case-history approach. Further, the answers are not processed in such a tay as to easily possit the determination of the lines of receased and analysis that should be followed.

(Le there has been no proliminary determination of errors of most profitable from the deferminant, a formal to a second of the formal of the formal of the property there is no way at this time by which to isolate the important

elements in each of the problem errors. No studies have been made, for example, to establish occuparies of the objects reported by shape, size, color, etc. or to show such things as shortest, longest and average duration of nightings of objects of various kinds.

Discretifications into constitute are instructions or constitutions. There have been most studies, for example, that would compare earthin weather conditions with the appearance of certain colors of lights.



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There are a number of standard analytical processes that might be used if

the process considered the juntary worth a full blown effort. It might define in

detail the research objectives to be used in relation to the questionnaire.

After the areas of most profitable research had been determined, a logical nex step would be to isolate the important elements in each problem area.

A third step would be to set up means by which to make many useful cross-Finally
comparisons. Fourth, trend studies as well as area studies could be made.

Finally, there might be an objective study on the attributes of available data.

In summary, the limited central administrative support given to the project

by Air Force, coupled with the extremely limited scope of the analytical work

done thus far, has placed a strict ceiling on the kind of interpretations that can be made from material now available.

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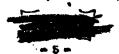


Plature of how the various phonomena may have formed patterns, either as regards appropriate or dispersal over specific periods of time-

Firelly, there wisht be an objective study on the attributes of available date. Thus far, reports themselves (not factors present within these reports) are only classed "explainable" or "not explained". It is not known to what extent, or where, elements of consistency my extend through both the collection of "explainable" and "not explained" reports.

Also, there is no means by which to sort out will elements from otherwise "unreliable" reports, nor is there a means by which to sort out invalid elements from otherwise accurate reports. In illustration of a consequence of this limitation would be the probable unhappy fate of a valid report on what was actually ariemized cloud, when observed on a well established balloon track. It would, in all probability be classed "explainable" as a balloom. The relegation of this report to the "emplained" entergery would take any valid elements present in the report out of the reach of later enalysis.

In surrary, the limited control administrative support given to the project by Air Ferry, complet with the entropoly limited scape of the analytical work





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done thus far, leads us to believe that any bread conclusions presently drawn

can be accepted only with eaution,

and the sunder of As to the future, a limited amount of improvement may be accomplished. Institute A revised questionmaire, now being designed by Air Force and Buttele experts will give more detail to each case-history. We have heard informally, though, that many objects are not reported in Korea because of the burden of required paper-work. A longer questionmaire would rake pilote even more reluctant to report their sightings. Also, many cross comparisons will be possible if present plans to use punch cards are carried out. In addition, improvements my be expected if hir Force follows through on its present plan to establish an advisory board of top level scientists. Further, the current plan to place omphasis on using instrumentation such as refraction grid comeras and new type Schmidt tolemoopes, will yield more usable facts. The absence thus far, however, of a well planned and properly guided research program makes it appear that it may be come time in the future before we can expect complete explanations of and the contract of the contra many of these phenomes.

For the next part of our presentation, ir. Durant will discuss some of the factors that have been found, or may be involved, in these reports.



Part I - Weather Dalloons

- 1. In the analysis of Flyobrets prior to 1 Jul 52 approximately 15% were classified as "possibly" or "probably" balloon. The basis for fact—sion was generally little more than a form of quesswork; if the Flyobret did not do anything, and much locway was allowed for observer's fallibility, that a balloon could not do in maneuvers, speed, etc., and if the description corresponded even renghly to that of a balloon, it was so classified. If there was no particular reason to believe a balloon was in the area, the report became a "possible". If the sighting occurred near a balloon Isunsbing site or on or about the launch time, it became a "probable". It was obvious that an effort to obtain factual data to support such conclusions was in order.
- 2. ATTAN-5 approached the problem of weather balloons first. Weather balloons are of the following types:
- a. Radiosonde Rubberized tan latex, 6° in dismeter at launch, up to 20° at altitude. Carries a transmitter and telegatering device for temperature pressure, dempoint sequences, which transmitter under certain conditions would give rudar returns. Also carries a white running light during night launches battery operated, which should last for duration of flight. Formal ascent is to 70,000° = 100,000°, at ± 1,000 ft/min, at which slittude the balloon bursts and equipment recovery is effected by a red parachute.
- b. Rawin Same balloon as above, but it carries only a radar: "triangle", and is a winds aloft observation.
 - c. Reminsonde Same, a combination of rawin and radioscode.
- d. Ratal Same type of balloom, tracked by theodolite for winds aloft observation.
- e. Pibal A rubberized tan later balloon, 30" in diameter at release and 4 or 5' at altitude. Burst and climb.comparable to radiosonds. A winds about observation, tracked by theodolite. Carries running light for night launches.

daily. Romever, some stations launched at 07002, 09002, 15002 and 21002 daily. Romever, some stations launch one, two, three, or four times daily; others launch irrequirely, some launch only one type, and others several or all. In addition, time of launch may very approximately thirty minutes from the schoduled time, either way. All agencies which launch balloons are quick to admit that balloons can raifunction and that many are lost. In addition, wind currents in altitude can cause the balloons to essure old shapes and strange managers. The balloons under cortain attemption conditions can appear to be alloos only color, and may be visible even at extreme altitudes, particularly at sunrise and sunset, to an observer on the ground.

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3. ATTM-5, faced with this situation, compiled in July a file of balloon launch date cards for Air Moather Service, Eaval Air Moather Service, and Moather Survice stations. In addition, this information is picetured graphically on the weather balloon launch Location chart. Combining this information with the winds aloft data which ATC receives from the factive charts has often provided a solution to Flyobryts. Significantly, balloons, possible and probable, increased from 15% in June to 30% in August, with 24% in July. The percentage of reports analyzed as "unknown" decreased propertionately. This gain is a real one, and results from the accumulation of the background data and the climination of guesswork.

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Part II - Upper Air Research Ballooms

- 1. Specially designed types of balloons are used by the USAF and the U.S. Navy in cooperation with various contractors to obtain upper air data for accountific purposes. There is no doubt time these balloons cause Fly-obrpts; tracking data of eleven such flights in July resulted in positive identification in three cases, probable identification in three case. The U.S. Navy, through its flaid representative of CNR at the University of Mirmesota, dails with three contractors. The balloons released are large white polyschylene types expable of expanding to 100° in dismeter and carrying up to 500 pounds of metallic equipment. Valve and inflation arrangements control illusting abstances. Naturally, they are visible even at extreme altitudes under many conditions and are capable of assuming almost any shape. The contractors often release from time to time free or attached clusters of the RA and P type ruckerized balloons, as well.
- 2. These flights are often of long duration; one Einmontolis released balloon was tracked to Cape Cod and lost, than it was recovered in Fordanux, France. They are tracked by sen HDF stations throughout the United States.
- 3. ATTLING has taken stops to set up a reporting system for all bulloom flights of the Mayy contractors. This program will be implemented 15 Oct 57 and will permanently solve the problem of U.S. Mayy upper air research callooms.

4. The USAF operates two projects, "Copher" and "Noby Dick", which involve the release of the large polyethylene type believes. In all particulars, flight durations, tracking methods, etc., those flights are corperable to the U.S. Havy projects. At present, ATIAL-5 has no communication or linform with these projects, but ATIAL-5 intends to use the same approach and reporting systems with the USAF projects as with the Mavel contractors.

Conclusions

By 1 Low 52 ATIAN-5 should be resolving complete data on all weather, Navy upper air, and USAF upper air balloom releases.

Notes

This paper is a short introduction to the "balloon phase" of Project Blue Book. For amone desiring the complete information, such as agencies and personalities involved, channels and methods of communication, etc., it will be necessary to read the following supporting papers which are on file in ATTAG-5.

a. Balloon Data Folder

- b. Miscollaneous Correspondence File Letter 5 Sep 52, to: USAF Combridge Resourch Center, Combridge, Massachusetts, subje Air Force Upper Air Research Delloon Releases, and first indurament thereto.
- e. Air Weather Service Correspondence File Letter 22 Sep 52, to: CC, ATS, subj: Climatelegy Data for Project Muse Book.
- d. U.S. Mavy Correspondence File Letter, 9 Sep 52, to: Air Branch, CIR, subj. O'R Upper Air Felloon Projects, and O'R answer thereto.
 - s. Travel Report Lt A. G. Flues, 25 Aug 52 to Washington, D.C.
 - f. Travel Report Lt A. G. Zlues, 15 Sep 52, to Asheville, N.G.
- .g. Travel Report Lt A. G. Flues, 30 Sep 52, to Himmespelis, Mmosota.

क्रांत्रमा द्वीर । जो प्रदेश के विकास में स्थान प्रथम सम्बद्ध किसी । सम्बद्ध मृत्य क्षेत्र में १५% विकास ।